



Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE **108th** CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2004

Senate

In Memoriam of John "Jack" Burris

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I would like to set aside a moment to reflect on the life of Mr. John "Jack" Burris upon his passing late last month. Jack was a good friend and a man who made remarkable contributions to our State. He was a truly selfless man with a kind heart, diverse interests, great abilities and boundless energy.

Jack was born in Lincoln City, now part of Milford, DE, to the late John W. and Edna Vaughn Burris. After graduating from the Peddie School in Hightstown, NJ in 1938, he went on to study at the University of Pennsylvania in 1942.

After serving his country in World War II as a member of the United States Marine Corps, Jack returned to Delaware and began farming for several years. He then founded the Burris Poultry Business, which operated from 1948 until it was sold in 1971, at which time he founded Burris Logistics, a frozen-food warehousing and distribution company, which he ran until last year.

Jack was an uncommonly active member of his community, serving on countless boards and committees. He was a member of the Executive Committee of the Wilmington Trust Co. and was chairman of its Kent County Advisory Board. For 19 years, Jack was director of the Brandywine Fund. He contributed generously of his time and

energies to community, educational and service organizations.

For 35 years, he served on the Milford Memorial Hospital Board. During a portion of that time, he was the board's chairman. More recently, Jack was a member of the Bayhealth Foundation board. Annually for 37 years, he and his family cooked the chicken dinners for the Milford Hospital Fair to help support the community's hospital. For 19 years, he served as chairman of the State Integrity Commission and in 2000, he co-chaired--at my request--the committee that raised funds to remodel the State Archives Building and transform it into a state-of-the-art facility.

One of Jack's greatest joys, however, was supporting the efforts of the United Way in our State. For more than 20 years, he actively participated in Kent and Sussex Counties' United Way campaigns, serving as chairman for many years. Jack and his wife, Lillian, were honored as exceptional volunteers, receiving the United Way's Alexis de Tocqueville Society Award. He was also a charter member of the Milford Lions Club.

From 1976 to 1992, Jack was a trustee of the University of Delaware and co-chair of the search committee that recommended Dr. David Roselle as president. In 1992, he received a Doctor of Humane Letters from the University of Delaware and also served that same year on the Agriculture Advisory

Committee of the University of Delaware Board of Trustees, as well as a trustee emeritus.

For more than 30 years, he was an active member of the Avenue United Methodist Church in Milford, where he served on the administrative board and was the Pastor-Parish Committee chairman for 18 years.

In 1998, Jack was inducted into the National Frozen Food Industries Hall of Fame. The Baltimore and Washington Frozen Food Association in 1993 and 1994 honored him as Man of the Year. He was inducted into the Delaware Business Leaders Hall of Fame and twice, with his wife, Lillian Marshall Burris, was named as Outstanding Citizen of the Year by the Milford Chamber of Commerce. One of his greatest honors was receiving the Josiah Marvel Cup award from the Delaware State Chamber of Commerce in 1993.

Jack Burris also has received many prestigious awards for his dedication and service. Among them are the Dover Colonial Rotary's Paul Harris Service Award, the Lions International Melvin Jones Award for Dedicated Humanitarian Services, the Delmarva Poultry Citizen of the Year and Del-Mar-Va Boy Scout Council's Citizen of the Year.

Jack leaves behind his wife of 61 years Lillian, a remarkable woman in her own right, as well as four children, twelve grandchildren, three step-grandchildren, and twelve great-grandchildren. He also leaves behind a legion of friends, colleagues and several generations of Delawareans who are living more fulfilling, satisfying lives today because of Jack's extraordinary contributions.

Jack Burris' legacy will live on in the lives of those he helped to shape and in the hearts of those who were lucky enough to call him their friend. I rise today to commemorate Jack's life, to celebrate his life, and to offer his family our heartfelt thanks for sharing this remarkable human being with all of us. Jack embodied the best of Delaware. He was one of a kind. He will be sorely missed.